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virtuous. The second stage or inward life of the friends of God, is marked by a change of intention. All is now done from the motive of love "when Christ the Eternal Sun rises in our hearts and sends his light and fire into our wills." The third stage is the superessential life of the sons of God "who have raised themselves into the absolute purity of their spirit by love, and stand in God's presence with open and unveiled faces."

The *Book of the Sparkling Stone* is perhaps the finest and most inspired of all his writings, and that in which he reaches the greatest heights. Man is given the Sparkling Stone or Nature of Christ, the goal of human transcendence.

In the *Book of Supreme Truth* he reviews some of his teachings, combats the pantheistic and quietist doctrines preached by some of the heretical sects of his day, and makes clear that "as the air is in the sunshine and the sunshine in the air, so God is the being of the soul but the Creator always distinct from the created."

The translator has done a great service in opening out to us the experience and teachings of one of the most lofty and spiritual minds of the Christian era. The English is excellent and shows no trace of the original involved Flemish or rather Brabant dialect in which Ruysbroeck himself wrote.

G. K. S.

London, England.

#### SHORTER NOTICES.

A MANUAL OF MODERN SCHOLASTIC PHILOSOPHY. By Cardinal Mercier and other professors of the Higher Institute of Philosophy, Louvain. Authorized translation by T. L. Parker, M.A., and S. A. Parker, O.S.B., M.A.; with a preface by P. Coffey, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy at Maynooth College, Ireland. Vol. I. London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Company; St. Louis, B. Herder, 1916. Pp. xxvi, 573. Price, 10s. 6d. net.

This work, which will be complete in two volumes, is in large part an abridgment of the well-known Louvain philosophical series, six volumes of which had appeared before the beginning of the war. The present work includes, besides a prefatory introduction to philosophy, Cosmology (by D. Nys), Psychology, Criteriology (Epistemology), and Ontology by Cardinal Mercier. The second volume will contain Natural Theology, Logic, Ethics and History of Philosophy.

No student of contemporary philosophy can afford to neglect the neoscholastic movement since 1879. Great efforts have been made to bring the teaching of Aquinas up to date, and, as in Walker's *Theory of Knowledge*, the non-Romanist philosopher will find his colleagues recognised and dealt with. The "Manual" is decorated with four physiological plates, and Evolution receives five pages. Physical theories, which are divided

into dynamism, represented by Leibniz, Kant, Boscovich and others, and energism, represented by Ostwald, Mach, Duhem and others, are discussed at greater length. The reader who wishes to see how a modern philosopher is handled should turn to p. 381 for a refutation of Kant. While the book should benefit especially those who have been accustomed to underrate Aristotle, it should be in the hands of all philosophers who do not know the larger, but incomplete work. The translation appears to be good, and the book is very well printed.

T. S. E.

**PROGRESS AND HISTORY.** Edited by F. S. Marvin. London: Oxford University Press (H. Milford), 1916. Pp. 314. Price, 8s. 6d. net.

The volume of twelve lectures, a sequel to the *Unity of Western Civilisation*, has, like the latter, varying levels. The earlier volume—also a symposium—described some of the unifying factors which hold Western civilisation firm, while the present group of lectures, given at Woodbrooke Settlement, show these forces in growth. The book is a series of scholarly *comptes rendus* by specialists, of progress as it appears in prehistoric times, Hellenism, the middle ages; in religion, industry, philosophy, science and art. Many of these like Mr. Zimmern's two chapters and Professor J. A. Smith's, are excellent in matter and manner; the slightest is Mr. Clutton Brock's contribution, which expresses little but his hope or opinion that we may be able by an exercise of will, to achieve even a new renaissance in art, and which has the qualities and defects of a college debating society paper.

The position of the editor and of these combined papers is that though some deny the possibility of progress and claim that we are mistaking a progressive materialism for progress, the concrete material advantages of organised civilisation, the conquests of science, make for the liberation of human energies. Ethically our general progress is doubted by few who have had the opportunity of comparing the evidence as to any previous state of morals. But Mr. Jacks, in his "Moral Progress," asks some embarrassing questions; and tells us that belief in moral progress cannot be proved by appeal to history or to human experience. We cannot prove moral progress by appeal to any objective standard, such as the amount of happiness existing in the world at definite dates. Mr. Zimmern also declares that we cannot measure progress in terms of organisation, or efficiency, or culture, or knowledge; and the editor finds that achievement has been, hitherto, ever needing correction "by another movement more one-sided still."

M. J.

**TOWARDS RACIAL HEALTH.** A Handbook for Parents, Teachers and Social Workers on the Training of Boys and Girls. By Norah H. March, B.Sc., M.R.San.I. With a Foreword by Professor J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., LL.D., and Illustrations by Jessie M. Lawson, B.I., A.R.C.A (Sculp. Lond.). London: George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 1916. Pp. xxii, 338. Price, 3s. 6d. net.

Miss Norah March is known both in Britain and America as a trained biologist and educationalist, and a lecturer of unusual ability. She has here outlined a scheme of sex education which is extremely comprehensive, ethically idealistic and illustrated by a wide range and detailed accuracy of knowledge. Special stress is laid upon the value of the "biologic approach" to the facts of reproduction, as tending towards a mentally

alert yet unembarrassed frame of mind, and sense of wonder and sublimity. The portions of the book dealing with microscopic work, the keeping of pets, etc., are very fascinating, and should have a distinct humanitarian value, and help to cultivate sympathy and interest in animal life and a sense of responsibility and "universal kinship."

The "suggestions for parents on how to answer childish questions" are full of beauty and delicate dignity; happy the children whose parents *could* or *would* thus enlighten them and *how few!*

Yet obstinate questionings will arise respecting the author's fundamental theories: *e.g.*, certainly the sex impulse might with advantage be *sublimated* to a much greater extent than is possible in most cases under present social conditions: but is the solution *entirely* sublimation and control pending life-long monogamy? Is not a certain amount of direct functional exercise and expression necessary in most cases, for bodily health and mental perspective? And granting that the Mendelian law of heredity may prove to govern the transmission of many physical and mental peculiarities and defects—does not the justifiability of parentage become very doubtful in the case of many "impure dominants" who may be most useful to the community as individuals?

If the much needed educational reconstruction is now really to take place in England, Miss March's high idealism, clarity of mind and special knowledge should do the State great service.

F. W. STELLA BROWNE.

**THE FLOGGING CRAZE.** By Henry S. Salt, with a foreword by Sir George Greenwood. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1916. Pp. 160. Price, 2s. 6d. net.

Mr. Salt's vigorous and well-written polemic on the horrors of flogging will be read with interest by educationalists, even though, like all pieces of special pleading, it fails to convince by the very violence of its claims. He cheerfully assumes that when leaders of religious thought, such as the Dean of St. Paul's, defend the use of the birch on the score of its "wholesomeness," they must be profoundly unaware of the existence of sadism. This is taking too much for granted, and, unfortunately, the underlying suggestion of the whole book is that such a morbid love of inflicting torture is at the bottom of all analogous punishments, from the schoolboys' caning to the floggings recently sanctioned by the Criminal Law Amendment Act. This is absurd. Few educated adults are ignorant that such forms of vice exist, but they know also what a happily small percentage of the human race are handicapped by this lowest stigma of degenerate humanity. That no child must be whipped for deliberate naughtiness because one father in ten thousand has a criminal enjoyment of the act is a pronouncement few would endorse, and the boy whose character is permanently degraded by a caning received at school would be of such a temperament that the likelihood of his becoming a useful citizen of the world would be small indeed.

Mr. Salt speaks repeatedly of the "indecency," of the "obscenity" even, of flogging, but to the unprejudiced mind, the choice between one brief unpleasant experience of bodily pain and five years of severe discipline in a reformatory (the one punishment available to the courts for boys between the ages of fourteen and sixteen), shut away from the natural pleasures of a free home-life would not be hard to make. When discussing a similar case the *Lancet* suggests that these young Hooligans should be turned into active Boy Scouts; and that a bad Boy Scout should be

whipped when naughty appears to the normal man only in the light of ordinary discipline.

In two stirring chapters Mr. Salt denies the use of the lash, either as a purifier or as a deterrent where criminals are concerned, and in his "Fallacies of Flagellants" he makes an amusing list of the usual arguments said to be brought forward by upholders of this ancient form of punishment, arguments which he demolishes easily and at full gallop, in the manner of those who are able to raise their own obstacles.

RUTH HEAD.

London, England.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE ATHENÆUM SUBJECT INDEX TO PERIODICALS, 1916. Theology and Philosophy. London: The Athenæum, 1917. Price, 2s. 6d. net.

BOSANQUET, BERNARD. Social and International Ideals, Being Studies in Patriotism. London: Macmillan and Company, Ltd., 1917. Pp. x, 325. Price, 6s. net.

BOUTROUX, EMILE. The Contingency of the Laws of Nature. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company, 1916. Pp. vii, 196. Price, \$1.50.

BRYCE, VISCOUNT, AND OTHERS. Proposals for the Prevention of Future Wars. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1917. Pp. 53. Price, 1s. net.

BURNET, JOHN. Higher Education and the War. London: Macmillan and Company, Ltd., 1917. Pp. x, 238. Price, 4s. 6d. net.

BURNS, C. DELISLE. Greek Ideals: A Study of Social Life. London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1917. Pp. xii, 275. Price, 5s. net.

COHN, A. Some Aspects of the War, as Viewed by Naturalized British Subjects. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1917. Pp. 20. Price, 6d. net.

COMPSTON, (REV.) H. F. B. The Magdalen Hospital: The Story of a Great Charity. With Foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1917. Pp. 237. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

COPPING, ARTHUR E. Souls in Khaki. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1917. Pp. 212. Price, \$1.00.

DICKINSON, G. LOWES. The Choice Before Us. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1917. Pp. xii, 274. Price, 6s. net.

EUGENICS REVIEW. April, 1917. London: Eugenics Education Society; New York: B. W. Huebsch. Price, 1s. net; post free, 1s. 2d.; annual subscription, 4s. 8d.

FARRELL, H. P. An Introduction to Political Philosophy. London: Longmans, Green and Company, 1917. Pp. vii, 220. Price, 3s. 6d. net.

GERRISH, FREDERIC HENRY. Sex Hygiene: A Talk to College Boys. Boston: The Gorham Press, 1917. Pp. 51. Price, \$.60.

GILBERT, GEORGE HOLLY. Jesus for the Men of To-day: When Science Aids Religion. New York: John H. Doran Company, 1917. Pp. 176. Price, \$1.00.

GRANT, MADISON. The Passing of a Great Race, or the Racial Basis of European History. With a preface by H. F. Osborn. London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1917. Pp. xx, 232. Illustrated with numerous maps and plans. Price, 8s. 6d. net.

THE GROTIUS SOCIETY. Problems of the War: Papers read before the Society in the year 1916. Vol. II. London: Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd., 1917. Pp. xxvi, 178. Price, 6s. net.

HAYWARD, F. H. Professionalism and Originality. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company. No date. Pp. xv, 260. Price, \$1.75.

INNES, CHARLES E. Britain's Great Opportunity to Suppress the Personal Circumstance of National Crime and to Prevent its Recurrence. The Second Step. Birmingham: Birmingham Printers, Ltd., 42 Hill Street, 1917. Pp. 12. Price, 1d.